

APPENDIX D

SONOMA COAST STATE BEACH
PUBLIC MEETING NOTES

Appendix D-1: Sonoma Coast State Beach Public Meeting #1 Summary Notes

Date: March 13, 2003

Location: Bodega Marine Lab

Total attendees: approximately 25

Introductions and Presentations

Peter Connors, Director of Bodega Marine Lab

- ▶ Welcome and introduction to Bodega Marine Lab

Joe Mette, District Superintendent for Sonoma Coast State Beach (SCSB)

- ▶ Opening comments regarding purpose of the meeting
- ▶ Welcomes public to comment on the planning process
- ▶ General plan (GP) is a planning document that will serve as a guide for SCSB for the next 10-15 years.

Michael Stephenson, Chief Ranger Russian River District

- ▶ SCSB resources: 19 miles of coastline, rich bio and cultural resources, park visitation is 2.9 million people per year
- ▶ Park challenges: mandated by mission statement to protect resources and provide public access
- ▶ Purpose of the GP
 - serves as a broad-based planning document that is important in the diverse mission statement of state parks.
 - Legal mandate states that every park must have a GP
 - A GP is not a project-specific document
 - Must consider state-wide, local, and regional contexts relative to services provided
- ▶ Public input is important because:
 - the public has needed knowledge of the park
 - DPR wants to be aware of public issues
 - Constituency building is needed for support of state parks
 - GP's have an amendment/revision process built into them

Petra Unger, Environmental Consultant, EDAW, Inc.

- ▶ General Plan Process
 - Document existing conditions (ongoing)
 - Identify and inform stakeholders (ongoing – mailing list)
 - Identify issues and concerns (visioning surveys)
 - Develop alternatives for planning (spring/summer 2003)
 - Identify preferred alternative (Fall 2003)
 - Circulate General Plan and EIR for public review (Winter 2003)
- ▶ Purpose of EIR
 - To analyze the preferred alternative's effects on the environment
 - Public disclosure
- ▶ EIR Process
 - Notice of Preparations (NOP) – filed with the State Clearinghouse on February 27
 - Scoping – today's meeting, comment sheets
 - Preparation of Draft General Plan/EIR
 - Public and Agency Review of Draft EIR (45 days)
 - Final General Plan/EIR
 - DPR Commission adopts Plan
- ▶ Partners in Planning
 - California State Park: North Coast Redwoods District and Statewide General Plan Unit
 - GP/EIR consultant: EDAW, Inc., Thomas Reid Associates (Carrying Capacity Study)
 - Local community
 - Park visitors/users
- ▶ General Plan/EIR Timeline
- ▶ Opportunities for Public Input
 - Public Workshop No.1 – EIR Scoping Meeting
 - Visioning worksheet – fill out by hand or online
 - Scoping comment worksheet – return by April 15, 2003
 - Public Workshop No.2 – Alternatives (Summer 2003)
 - Review Draft EIR – Public Workshop No. 3 (2004)

Comments

- ▶ Darryl asked whether the carrying capacity study would address protection and impacts to Duncan's Landing
- ▶ He also suggested circulating notices for public meetings to all (5-6) local papers to better reach the coastal community.
 - Wayne asked him to add key contacts to the mailing list.

Public Comments

- ▶ Facilitated by Rick Royer in a combined forum organized by topic
- ▶ Public comments below were captured and recorded by Brendan O'Neil and Gary Shannon in a master outline.
- ▶ The wording of items was reviewed by each commenter.
- ▶ Indented items are additional comments not recorded on the master outline during the public comments session

NATURAL RESOURCES

- ▶ More effort toward control of exotic species, particularly ice plant and pampas grass, etc.
- ▶ Designation of quiet areas free from motorized vehicles and electronics
 - for observation of wildlife; preferably land contiguous to wildlife sanctuary/habitat
- ▶ Also include A.D.A. (Americans with Disabilities Act) considerations
- ▶ No more shooting range in Willow Creek or lead recovery system – lead and noise concern
 - This issue is an internal controversy because State Parks personnel are required to use firearms.
 - Rich Lawton stated that there is an effort in progress to investigate the recovery of lead bullets, and that the range will probably be relocated.
 - Non-lead bullets were requested.
- ▶ Protection and enhancement of habitat for western snowy plover
- ▶ Remove berm at east lot, Bodega Head
 - Future development needs to consider aesthetic impacts.
- ▶ Awareness of visual/aesthetic resources
 - Joe Mette mentioned San Luis County's approach of videotaping the "look" of the park each year to evaluate change.

- ▶ Consider additional protections for marine mammals
 - Harbor seals are moving out of areas due to increased numbers of elephant seals in the park
- ▶ Improve communications to improve responses for marine mammal crises (stranding)
- ▶ Improve protection for tidepools
- ▶ No dogs on Goat Rock Beach
 - This is related to the harbor seal issue
- ▶ Specify which beaches allow dogs
 - Joe Mette mentioned that dogs are not allowed on anywhere on SCSB, so continued enforcement would be needed.
- ▶ Consider impacts of moving Hwy 1 and what would happen if (there is a massive storm event)
- ▶ Consider making Hwy 1 a designated scenic highway
- ▶ Discontinue grazing on park lands unless for enhancing habitat of natives
- ▶ Plan for monitoring species of concern
- ▶ Consider light pollution for enhancement of nighttime skies
- ▶ Continue enforcement of fish and game laws
 - With respect to abalone poaching
- ▶ Evaluate appropriate locations for natural and cultural preserves
- ▶ Consider monitoring for tidepool visitor impacts
- ▶ Continue partnerships to restore Willow Creek watershed
- ▶ Support restoration efforts in Salmon Creek watershed
 - Particularly in the event of sediment deposition
- ▶ Ensure that coastline resources are protected from adverse impacts associated with projects. i.e. sewage outfall project
- ▶ Work with Caltrans to remedy fish passage barrier at Furlong Gulch
 - Good potential habitat for salmonid spawning
- ▶ Discontinue use of herbicides on DPR lands
- ▶ Consider grazing as a management tool
- ▶ Consider use of herbicides as a management tool. i.e. IPM (integrated pest management)
- ▶ Future acquisitions of Jenner Gulch

- ▶ Study of raptor populations in parks
- ▶ Tracking of SOD (Sudden Oak Death) and pitch canker in parks

CUTURAL RESOURCES

- ▶ Increase protection of Duncan's Landing
 - It was mentioned that it is perhaps the most significant archeological site on the continent
 - Investigate levels of protection for cultural resources (e.g. classification as a preserve etc.)
 - Evaluate appropriate locations for cultural/natural resource preserves
- ▶ Maintain active fishing community for Bodega Bay area
 - Allow opportunities for rock and surf fishing
- ▶ Identify and protect areas used by native Americans
 - Particularly burial grounds
- ▶ Allow for permitted bonfires for seasonal celebrations

RECREATION

- ▶ Increase park personnel or others to communicate beach safety and education
 - Could use interpretation (or volunteers) for safety awareness
- ▶ Continue equestrian use of Salmon Creek Beach and Dune trails
- ▶ Delineate trails as a way to manage soil compaction issues in redwoods
 - Needed to protect forest resources in Pomo Canyon and Red Hill property
- ▶ Encourage multi-use activities, especially in new acquisitions
- ▶ Determine appropriate use based on resource compatibility
- ▶ Encourage stewardship responsibilities for trail maintenance
- ▶ Consider impacts of motorized PWC (personal water craft) on adjacent parks lands
 - Particularly safety and aesthetic impacts
- ▶ Integrate recreation and natural resources (specifically listed species issues) issues for planning purposes; look into seasonality as a consideration
 - There is concern for the conflict between use and protection of the park
- ▶ Attention to signage for trails, especially Bodega Dunes
- ▶ Identify areas where multilingual signage is needed

INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION

- ▶ Use of symbolic fencing and appropriate education of public for reasons why [areas are fenced]
- ▶ Use of law enforcement as education tool
- ▶ Provide information on how public behavior affects threatened and endangered species (TES)
- ▶ Consider how volunteer programs in management of new acquisitions – bikes and equestrian assistance
- ▶ Protection of interpretive signs from vandalism
- ▶ Attempt to deal with and manage sign and art clutter to prevent distractions from park surroundings
- ▶ Docent program for TES (specifically western snowy plover)
- ▶ Interpretive signage for TES
- ▶ Educate public regarding predator control for TES (e.x. raptor control)
- ▶ Tidepool education program – require reservations for school groups
- ▶ Provide ELP (educational living program) for Willow Creek and Shell Beach to encourage stewardship and natural resources education

FACILITIES

- ▶ Establish mechanism for regular patrol of trails
- ▶ Improved signing of trails
- ▶ Preserve Jenner boat house for use by S.O.S.
- ▶ Encourage partnerships with other agencies and groups for visitor center
- ▶ Expand coordination of volunteers for use in maintaining parks
- ▶ Consider partnering with Chanslor Ranch for visitor center at Chanslor Ranch
- ▶ Appropriate siting of facilities (consider environmental, cultural resources, etc.)
- ▶ Encourage preservation of significant historic structures (e.g. Willow Creek barns, Jenner boat house, ranch houses)
- ▶ Encourage visitor center on Sonoma Coast – multi-agency partnership
- ▶ Explore new/alternative ways for volunteer opportunities

Appendix D-2: Sonoma Coast State Beach Public Meeting #2 Summary Notes

Date: August 28, 2003

Location: Bodega Bay Grange Hall

Total Attendees: 34 people (21 members of public, 10 DPR staff & 3 consultants)

Introductions and Presentations

Michael Stephenson, Chief Ranger Russian River District

- Welcome public to meeting.
- Introduction to the staff.
- Explanation of the purpose of general plan and mandates of PRC.

Steven Huang, EDAW

- Overview of Timeline
- Introduced Mission Statement, Goals, Vision, Purpose, Maps, Planning Concepts, etc.
- As requested by the public, pointed out specific sites on maps.

Questions and Answers

- Public asked how interim management plan developed by public advisory committee is used in planning process (Michael said it is used as background information)
- Public asked which other State park units are along the coast (Michael mentioned Fort Ross, Salt Point, Tomales)
- Public asked how alternatives will be developed (Steven said it will be based on public input from the meeting and on environmental analysis)

Public Comment Break-out Session

- Public circulated between four stations that are staffed by EDAW staff and DPR staff. One station had mission, purpose, vision, and goals. Another station had management zones and management zone matrix. A third station had potential resource management areas. The last station had potential development areas and site selection matrix.
- Public were asked to fill out comments forms that may be submitted at the meeting or mailed back. Presentation materials would be available at district office.
- Public comments below were captured on pads at each of the stations and are presented as recorded.

Public Comments on Mission, Purpose, Vision, and Goals

- Consider practicality of Goal #1 in certain situations. Parks may be proceeding too fast with eliminating European beach grass.

- All of the Park Goals should be considered in any Park action. Be careful about having one goal dominating all others. (Example: if considering removing group of trees, consider scenic impacts not just native vegetation goals).
- Include harbor seal colony/estuary at Jenner (mouth of Russian River) in the vision statement. Refer to entire ecosystem of mouth of Russian River.

Public Comments on Potential Facility Development Areas

- Passing lanes/turnout on Highway 1 for highway safety (Caltrans issue?).
- How to limit people in the State Park? By establishing carrying capacity?
- Better signage (i.e., fire hazards, litter signs, birds and wildlife).
- Improve trail signage (especially in the dunes for horse trails)
- Incorporate idea of public transportation (i.e., come to park without cars). County to provide transportation to the Park, DPR provide shuttle within the Park.
- Better siting and alternative materials for outhouses (no concrete).
- Bypass road as an alternative to Highway 1.
- Install pay toilets to offset costs of sewage treatment/transport.
- Have development area at Duncans Landing for cultural resource interpretation building.
- Wetlands in potential facility area at Willow Creek present constraints.
- Assess parking needs for all beaches and accesses.
- More restroom and water facilities.

Public Comments on Resource Management Area

- Septic problems in the Park (no sewer).
- Regional trail network should be considered.
- Current headquarter area is sensitive for Salmon Creek Estuary.
- Consider reintroduction of Roosevelt Elk.
- Use of grazing to restore coastal prairie.
- Continue to allow hang gliding in Resource management Area at Goat Rock.
- Restore and protect estuaries for native species
- Educate visitors/tourists about protocols for visiting sensitive areas and about cultural and natural resources.
- Provide docents in special areas
- Reclassify sensitive areas of significant natural and cultural resources (e.g., estuaries, Duncan's landing, etc.)
- Address water quality/polluted runoff.

Public Comments on Management Zones

- Dog walking as a recreational component.
- Hang gliding as a special use activity (by permit). Consider expansion of launch sites where appropriate (i.e., paragliding).
- Increase education regarding litter, recycling, polluted runoff, animal waste.
- Need good visitor center in Bodega Bay.

- More signage regarding litter, fire, no feeding birds/wildlife, erosion.
- Mail out info on meetings to everyone in zip codes.

Concluding Questions and Remarks

Following the break-out session, the public and the staff regrouped for the following concluding comments and questions.

- Why aren't more people at the public meeting?
- Agencies should talk to each other more.
- Is Coastal Commission involved? (Yes, they have jurisdiction over state land).
- Were Native American groups contacted? (Yes, they're on the stakeholder mailing list and also contacted through Breck Parkman's personal contacts).

Individual Comment Forms

Three individual comment forms were received during the meeting. Three additional comment forms were mailed to Rick Royer in September. Below is the summary of the comments expressed on these six individual comment forms.

Individual Comments on Overall Planning Concepts	Comments	Number Received
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use "green" technology for any new buildings ▪ Focus infrastructure development in Bodega Dunes area ▪ Develop Carrington property as little as possible ▪ Expand State Park to include mouth of E.A.(?) on Carrington property ▪ Restrict any new development to existing building site ▪ Add dog-walking as a recreational component ▪ Restoration, protection, and maintaining of Salmon Creek Estuary as a resource in itself ▪ Restore native plants and grasses ▪ Consider using elk for grazing management ▪ Include a full infrastructure for cyclists, including designated cyclist areas, parking facilities, and entryways into those facilities 	<p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p>

Individual Comments on Resource Management Areas	Comments	Number Received
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harbor seal colony at mouth of Russian needs higher level of protection; sanctuary status? 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecologists should review movie permits for environmental safety 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore historic buildings and use for employee housing – thus maintaining watchful eye and caring presence 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider land east of Hwy. 1 as equally important part of the “viewshed” 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full consideration of threatened and endangered species should be given fullest priority 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balance access with resource protection using informational signs, leaflets, and websites 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpretive displays and personnel needed 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salmon Creek estuary, Jenner estuary, and mouth of Russian Gulch should be managed for protection and enhancement of anadromous fishes 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jenner and Salmon Creek estuaries should be managed for protection and enhancement of sensitive biological resources (i.e. marine mammals, resident and migratory birds). 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jenner estuary speed limit (5 mph) should be part of public outreach and park staff training 	1

Individual Comments on Potential Development Areas	Comments	Number Received
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meadow at Willow Creek should not be developed; includes thalweg of creek and important riparian zone 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carrington property good candidate, but would require road improvements on either Coleman Valley or Hwy 1 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DPR should work with Sonoma County DOT & Public Works, Stewards, and others to address fish passage in Willow Creek 	1

Individual Comments on Management Zones	Comments	Number Received
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on the California Coastal Trail 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There should be a plan about how to acquire and manage the gaps between existing public lands 	1